

# RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN L. SMITH

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, on February 27, 1998, the state of Illinois and our nation will lose a valuable public servant. After 23 years as the Director of the United States Small Business Administration's (SBA) Chicago District Office, John L. Smith is retiring. It is my honor to commend him on a distinguished career of service to our nation.

Mr. Smith began a 47-year public service career in 1951 with a 4 year stint in the United States Navy. Following his discharge, Mr. Smith attended the Robert Morris School in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he received a degree in Business Administration.

In 1967, Mr. Smith began working in the civil service with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration where he worked as a loan specialist in several assignments throughout the East Coast. Prior to that, Mr. Smith had been the Director of Financial Assistance for the Business and Job Development Corporation in Pittsburgh.

In 1973, Mr. Smith came to Chicago to serve as the Regional Administrator for the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise. In that position, Mr. Smith admirably directed activities in 10 states and managed over \$5 million in grant and contract funds.

In 1975, Mr. Smith began his long tenure as Director of the SBA's Chicago District Office. Over the past 23 years, he has managed the Chicago Office and a smaller branch office in Springfield. Additionally, he has been responsible for overseeing both offices' SBA loans, management assistance, government contracting, and advocacy programs for small businesses across Illinois. On his watch, small businesses in Illinois have received several billion dollars worth of loans and federal contracts.

In addition to his professional successes, Mr. Smith and his wife have raised four adult children. John L. Smith has also worked to better his community and our nation through volunteering his time and abilities to organizations such as the American Heart Association, the Boy Scouts of America, the Kiwanis Club and the United Fund.

Without a doubt, the citizens and the economy of the state of Illinois have benefitted greatly from John L. Smith's able and dedicated leadership. He leaves behind a strong and proud record of accomplishment at the Small Business Administration, as well as a remarkable career of government service. I wish him good luck and God's speed in all of his future endeavors.

## A TRIBUTE TO DON TIBBETTS

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Tibbetts, "Dean of the New Hampshire State

House Press Corps" who recently retired after 24 years of news reporting on national and state politics for the Union Leader and the New Hampshire Sunday News.

Don has witnessed many historical events over his career, from the thrill of the first in the nation presidential primary to the comings and goings of countless Governors. He has endured seemingly endless hearings and press conferences, yet has reported on each of them with style, substance, and integrity.

In a state where people take their politics very seriously, Don was able to give the people of New Hampshire their daily diet of important facts about the events, votes, meetings, and rulings that impact their lives. What is remarkable about Don in this time of editorial journalism is the way Don gave his loyal readers the facts in an unbiased way and let them make their own judgments.

In the State House, Don was constantly on the lookout for news, churning out several stories each day. His "Under the State House Dome" column was a must read for anyone who wanted to be informed about the latest yet to break news and information about politics in New Hampshire.

Although Don is a lifelong member of the Fourth Estate, which often has a skeptical or even adversarial stance toward government officials, he always went the extra mile to listen to both sides of the story and reflect these views in his stories.

The only time he did not play it down the middle was when he was on the golf course, where he has been known to hit an occasional errant shot.

As someone who Don has covered for many years, I will miss him, and I know that his colleagues at the Union Leader and in the press corps will miss him too. The real questions is if Don will miss any of us. I wish both Don and Jane the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Those of us in government will greatly miss his reputation as an honest broker of the facts, a perceptive historian and judge of people, and for helping to keep the job of governing enjoyable. •

## IN HONOR OF THE PALMIERIS' FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I would like to call to your attention a most momentous and joyful occasion. Theresa and Joseph Palmieri of Brooklyn, New York will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 31, 1998.

Theresa and Joseph were wed at Saint Rosalie Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York on January 31, 1948. The couple was introduced at a "Welcome Home" for Joseph after his return from service during World War II. Living and working on Long Island, New York for the past thirty-five years, the Palmieri family includes

daughters Jo Ann and Theresa, sons Paul and Joseph, and seven grandchildren.

In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death do us part . . ." seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the entire Palmieri family in recognizing the wonderful sense of achievement and happiness that marks the golden wedding anniversary of Joseph and Theresa Palmieri. •

## THE TYRE LODGE MASONIC TEMPLE OF COLDWATER

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Tyre Lodge Masonic Temple in Coldwater, Michigan. On January 17, the lodge celebrated its 150th anniversary. To put this in perspective, this lodge was issued its charter 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln delivered the historic Gettysburg Address.

The Tyre Lodge has been a pillar of its community for many years. Volunteering their time, efforts and talents into an organization, Masons have consistently provided invaluable services to their community. The members of the lodge have always searched for new ways to provide opportunities for their fellow members and citizens of their local community. This strong commitment to helping other individuals is outstanding, and I commend each member of the association for all their tireless efforts.

On February 7, the lodge will be hosting a dinner and program to celebrate this achievement, and I would like to express my warmest wishes for a successful evening. Again, I would like to thank the members of the lodge for their dutiful dedication to the Coldwater community, and wish them the brightest of futures. •

## TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL FLOYD

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to a teacher in New Mexico who is an excellent example of service and commitment to education and the students of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Marshall Floyd has been a teacher at Highland High School since 1953, a member of numerous educational related boards, and has received a wide variety of educational honors, including being the recipient of the Outstanding Biology Teacher of New Mexico by the National Association of Biology Teachers in 1974 and receiving the Science Teacher of the Year Citation from the New Mexico Science Teachers Association in 1981. In 1990, Albuquerque Public Schools named Highland High School's new science building after him

in recognition of his service to the school and the educational community.

Mr. President, on January 12th, the community of Albuquerque and Highland High School paid tribute to this remarkable teacher, and today I join with my fellow New Mexicans in expressing my admiration for Marshall Floyd's continued dedication to educating the students of New Mexico and his commitment to the community of Albuquerque.●

#### THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS REDRESS ACT

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the House of Representatives on passage of S.1564, "The Holocaust Victims Redress Act."

The bill was passed by the Senate on November 13, 1997 and was referred back to the House where it was originally introduced by my colleagues, the Chairman of the House Banking Committee, Rep. JIM LEACH, and Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Rep. BEN GILMAN. I am very pleased that we have been able to work together to pass this important legislation enabling the correction of a horrible injustice after the war. Now, needy survivors can obtain some measure of justice and dignity.

Mr. President, this important bill contains two main provisions. First, the bill authorizes \$25 million for a U.S. donation to the fund established by the United States and the United Kingdom at the London Conference on Nazi Gold in December. Second, the bill authorizes \$5 million for research into the issue and translation of foreign language documents coming from this effort. The Administration has been fully supportive of this effort. Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, particularly, has played a vital role in this effort and without him we would not be where we are today on the issue.

Regarding the \$5 million authorized in the bill for research, it is my strong belief that the management of these funds should be granted to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This museum is the one organization uniquely capable of conducting research like this, research that is a core function of its mission. The Museum, I might add, has been an invaluable aid to the Banking Committee during our on-going inquiry into the disposition of Holocaust-era assets by Swiss banks from before, during and after the Holocaust. Accordingly, I can think of no better group to manage the research funding from this bill than the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Mr. President, I again want to thank my colleagues for their help in obtaining passage for this important bill. If we are going to try to obtain justice for victims of the Holocaust. While much more needs to be done on this issue, this is an important measure in this long overdue effort.●

#### CHILD SUPPORT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) has been added as a cosponsor to S. 1293, the Child Support Performance Improvement Act. Senator SNOWE and I introduced this legislation last year to call for critical ways to strengthen child support enforcement, including an effort to address the critical need for medical support among children with absent parents.

It is an honor to have Senator KERRY, a long-time child advocate and leader, join Senator SNOWE and me in our effort to promote effective and efficient child support enforcement. Senator KERRY's commitment to this issue is well known, and he has been aggressive pushing for action through previous legislation.

Today, we are joining forces to promote our bill, S. 1293, and to work together on a new initiative to resolve the lingering barriers that prevent enforcement of medical child support, a crucial aspect of support and stability for children and families. Senator KERRY's special commitment to medical support is clear. Working with him and other colleagues, we want to eliminate the barriers which hinder state agencies from effectively implementing the 1984 federal law that requires states to petition for medical child support, if it is available from non-custodial parents. Our law says children should not be discriminated against in health care coverage in cases of divorce, but we need to work together to ensure that this obvious principle works in practice. Public health coverage, through Medicaid or the new children's health initiative, should not be a substitute for private insurance from parents when such insurance is available. We hope to ensure that children get coverage they need and deserve.

To achieve our goals, we want to work with congressional colleagues, child advocates, state leaders, interested business groups and the Administration to ensure that we forge consensus on ways to tear down existing barriers to health care coverage that is fair and streamlined.

The technical nature of this issue is complicated. But the reality for children and families is clear—medical coverage means that parents have the peace of mind that their children can obtain the health care that is so vital for a healthy, successful childhood. I welcome Senator KERRY's support and urge all of my colleagues to join in this effort.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished Senator from West Virginia as a cosponsor of this very important child support legislation. He has long been a leader on these issues and I am delighted to work with him to ensure that children get the support they need and deserve. I particularly look forward to working together to pass medical enforcement

legislation. At least 700,000 children nationwide have a health insurance order through an ERISA-protected plan where the noncustodial parent fails to provide the required coverage. Providing an efficient, effective way for child support agencies to enforce the requirement for medical child support coverage through ERISA-protected plans would result in more children with private health insurance and reduced public costs for medical coverage.

#### RECOGNITION OF ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a tremendous accomplishment by the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Reverend Frank L. Selkirk III, Ph.D. As of December 31, 1997, the Church has raised enough money, from members and the Kansas City, Missouri, community to pay their mortgage.

The Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church Family will commemorate this achievement with a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" on January 18. The hard work and perseverance of all the members at Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church will begin to show in 1998 when money becomes available for new programs and possible expansion.

I congratulate Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church for their hard work and success. Additionally, I commend staff and members for their spirit and energy throughout their many years of existence and wish them continued success in enriching the Kansas City community for years to come.●

#### DANIEL J. KEARNEY

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and mourn a loss for the working men and women of this country.

On Friday, January 2d, 1998, Mr. Daniel J. Kearney of Cohasset, Massachusetts, passed away. On that day the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America lost an individual who embodied and protected the most cherished principles of this nation.

From his military service to his fervent support of the labor movement, Mr. Kearney led a quintessentially American life, one that contained family and sacrifice, struggle and victory. He married the late Mary A. MacGrath, and together they raised daughters Gail and Linda. His distinguished service in the U.S. Navy spanned the period from World War II through Korea, and he maintained this commitment to his nation through leadership and service in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Mr. Kearney began his long career in the labor community as an apprentice blacksmith at the Boston Naval Yard in 1946, where he graduated from the Boston Naval Shipyard Apprentice School. In 1952, he served as a program